

## House Republican Press Release

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### House Approves Workers` Comp Benefits for National Guard Soldiers



#### *Legislation Sponsored By Rep. Greene*

**HARTFORD** - The House of Representatives today approved legislation cosponsored by State Representative Len Greene (R-105th) that would provide workers' compensation benefits for members of the Connecticut

National Guard called to active duty by the Governor. House Bill 6565 now goes before the State Senate for consideration.

Under current law, state armed forces personnel, including Connecticut National Guard members, injured while on duty under state orders can file a claim in the Military Department under the authority of the adjutant general. When injured while they are on federal orders, Connecticut Guardsmen would receive federal compensation.

This bill repeals the Military Department's authority to consider claims, make or deny compensation awards, and set compensation amounts. It places state armed forces personnel under the preferred state workers' compensation system when they are on state orders.

By law, "state armed forces personnel" is defined as the Connecticut National Guard, the state militia including the Marine Corps branch, and the organized militia, which includes the Governor's Foot Guards and the Governor's Horse Guards.

The bill requires that any member of the state armed forces who is under orders and is injured or contracts a disease when on duty or assembled for duty must receive benefits in accordance with the state Workers' Compensation Act. It applies to any injury or disease that causes temporary or permanent disability that prevents the person from performing his usual duties or occupation.

"When National Guard members are called to active duty by the Governor, they are clearly serving the citizens of our state," said Rep. Greene. "This legislation will help provide sufficient benefits for them should they become injured in the line of duty. This is the least we could do for our own men and women who sacrifice their livelihoods and put their family lives on hold in order to preserve our safety."

*Rep. Greene represents Beacon Falls, Seymour and Ansonia in the House of Representatives.*